

AN  
ABSTRACT  
OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS  
TO PREVENT  
EXPORTATION  
OF  
WOOL  
Un-manufactured

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From the Y E A R 1667. to. this present  
Year 1689.

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By *William Carter Clothier.*

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C 190 (40)



To the Merchants, Clothiers, Factors and Packers &c.

**I**T may seem strange to some, that after above 20 Years time, expence of my small Estate, Loosing a Profitable Trade; and Adventuring my Life so often (as one late Action in Lew, of many set down in the clse of these Sheets; will plainly evidence) that after all this I am constrained to make an Appology to those for whom, and for whose Intrest I have with so much Cander and Freedom, to my own loss exposed my self, I must confess I expected better usage from some than I have y<sup>t</sup> received. But since most cannot be Ignorant of the truth of this abstracted Narrative, and that in it I have espoused your Cause, and engaged in your Quarrel, and so long Fought your Battels; It will not therefore I hope be thought unreasona<sup>le</sup>, if I do now expect but what is just and Equitable from Reasonable men: And though the discouragements set forth in a late Treatise called the Golden-Fleece, which by and by followeth, might have made me despair of any farther attempt, yet notwithstanding those discouragements, the earnest desire of my Countries good, did prevail with me above all other considerations whatsoever, not to consult those discouragements but to proceed in this Work, a part of which is contained in the following Sheets, wherein I have with so much difficulty waded through those Troubls upward of 20 Years.

Here see what Mr. S. saith: Now to shew you more particularly these abuses, how the Laws are trodd and daily obstructed to such as endeavour to serve their Country, by such as ought to encourage the Prosecutors; sure there will be very many practices of evil consequents discovered; for first in the C<sup>o</sup>-Box-House, where Bonds are taken, to the intent that those prohibited Commodities pass not by means of Mariners out of the Nation, but only from Port to Port for accomodation of such parts as want such Commodities; they are very Remise and careless in taking of the Sea-mens discharge of their Obligatory Conditions; where also it is usual with the Sea-men to bring fraudulent Certificats, and so to cheat the Kings Providence, who keeps Servants at great wages purposely to prevent such abuses; or if there be a regular return of their Bonds, yet there is commonly a fraudulency in giving them, for the Masters of Ships will so contrive their designs, as he who is Master at giving the Bonds, and is legally bound, shall immediately pass his Intrest to another man, who taking charge of the Vessel and Voyage, is notwithstanding not engaged in the Port Bond; and therefore neither is he accountable for breach of their condition; Again, when the Port-Bonds are justly taken, and as Justly returned; yet to prevent the true and real detection of the Offender, and to dishearten the legal Prosecutor, some Friends of the Offender will clap an In<sup>o</sup>rmation against him, purposely to hinder and divert others, and soon after will let the Prosecution fall at his pleasure; nay, at hath been said, and peradventure not unjustly, that such preventing Informations have been antedated to the overthrow of the real In<sup>o</sup>rmation; but when all is granted, and a full and formal hearing, and decree passed to the just condemnation of the Offender: Yet when Judgments and Inquires are granted,

and

and do without Errors of the Clerks, (which is not a'ware,) empower the Sheriffs and their Bailiffs to see Execution thereof made; it is familiar with these Officers to return a Non est inventus, or a Mortuus est, viz. Not to be found, or dead, even then when the Offenders and the Officers have been known to have been drinking together, at that very time when the Writ should have been executed.

After all this, one may farther well know how Chastity it self should be punished, for let all the former Proceedings be granted, and be carried, in a clear, and that the Law be indeed duly and legally executed, the Offender the Person, and nothing remaining; but that he honestly discharge himself with money, seeing that without be a limited, and rebels upon a lamentable condition, and a great charge of Children to the rest, the Offender is usually admitted to stand out for ten or twelve hundred, or less, when by his Offense he hath gained a Hundred for long or more, and peradventure hath undone a hundred Families or more in a longer. For all this, we have heard of the Justice, the only man that appears for the good of his Country, who contrary the Law to have the poor benefit a hundred, 120 of the Law gratis, it being enough that he paid his share for the prosecution of the publick Justice, if he had the same great sums of Money, and long expense of time, to bring the Offender to trial and conviction, is dismissed with success no satisfaction, unless he be rewarded with the brand of an infamous Slave: Surely this new made these Laws for the benefit of themselves and their own Country, did intend a more convenient and less expence of time, to thus to be punished and baffled. Such abuses as these made Theodorus (as it is recorded), that a wise man did himself Injustice by hazarding his Wife, home and Estate for the benefit of his Nation. Nor is the Law in these by their Transportation all the injury, but which he hath received is added to the good of their Country, do detect these Caterpillars of the Common-wealth, who may for a gain, as have been devoted upon the materials so carefully prohibited, when they do endeavor to the course of Law to make sport together, and to have the Offenders punished; so many are the evasions, such contrivances, and interest in the Officers, who ought to punish the Offenders; such favours have they in Courts of Justice and deceptions in the Return of Writs, and in general such supports and accommodations as the worst Lover of his Country, or most interested in Trade, does not attempt to prevent that may, but with his Eyes beheld to fall upon his Victim, or which his own person feels to pierce his Pocket.

But all which the Personal affronts, and partial considerations I have not withall, not only from the open Enemies to the Merchants, Clothiers and Factors, but from those who are the good I had greatly obliged, by so many repeated kindnesses done to me, were sufficient to make me refuse never to be concerned in such Unjust Offices, which would have put me in hazard of my Life as is so mentioned, in the former sheet. I do now me therefore, as the duty of justice that this Office requires, and that no one should be admitted to be my second, upon such uncertain Terms as I have done this said 20 Years.

The following Sheets being printed the last Year, its desired the Reader will be pleased to mend these Erates with his Penn.

## ERRATA

Page 1. line 21. in stead of Late Majesty, read K. Char. 2d. p. 4. l. 25. read as before. p. 5. l. 4. in stead of late Majesty, read K. Ch. 2d. p. 7. l. 2. in stead of 71. read 72. p. 8. l. 6. in stead of late Majesty, read K. Ch. 2d. l. 8. the same, p. 10. l. 1. read late King James, p. 11. l. 6. in stead of Peasen, read Person, in the same p. 9. l. of the



## The Contents,

**T**hat in Nov. 1667. I discovered great quantities of Wooll that had been exported in August before, from Rumney-marsh ( and seized some ) and also from Ireland, and discovered the same to the Parliament then sitting, p. 1st.

I petitioned K. Ch. 2d. for a Party of Horse in Rumney-marsh, and some Frigats at Sea, which was granted, and thereby great quantities of Wooll were prevented from Exportation, i. b.

Sept. 1668, I made Proposals to the said K. Ch. to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, which was referred to the Council of Trade, and reported, p. 2d.

August, 69 I Addressed the said King, about Ireland, which was referred to the Ld. Roberts then going, and good effects there were by preventing great quantities of Wooll from being carried beyond Sea, i. b.

About the said Mon. of August, I made a discovery of 5 Vessels that came into Callice with Wooll, and obtained the then Lord Keepers Letters, &c. p. 2d. and 3d.

By a Report from the Lord Chief Baron, in January 1671, the effects of my pursuing the former discovery, p. 6th.

In the said Year of 71, I prevented a design of Transporting Wooll from Ireland, p. 19.

That I prosecuted at the Assizes in Maidston in Kent, seven Persons, and convicted the same, p. 7th.

An Abstract of an Advertisement to the Merchants, and Clothiers in the Year 1672, p. 16. 17. 18.

In the Year 1678, I prevented the design of Mr. Monk, of lessening the penalties of the Laws for the preventing the Exportation of Wooll, p. 8th. In

## The Contents,

*In the Year 1684, I prevented a farther design of the said Mr. Monk, in a Commission, and petitioned the Lords of the Treasury to Impower the several Companies of Merchants &c. To take a perticular care of that Affaier, and thereupon I did then affresh undertake to look after it, and I prevented great quantities of Wooll that Year from Exportation, p. 9th.*

*In the Year 85, I attended the Parliament, for the Passing of a Bill, and petitioned the late King for 2 Sloops to Cruise upon the Seas, and did obtain them, tho' opposed by the then Commissioners of the Customs; by which means there was above 20 French Shallops taken, and condemned, with 2 or 300 Baggs of Wooll, besides much cast over-board, p. 10th.*

*That in May 1686, I did request, and did obtain an Order from the then Lord Treasurer, to bring up the Wooll which was condemned, to London, and to be sold to the Clothiers, which before used to be sold after Seazure, to those that had exported it, and then exported by them again, p. 11th.*

*That in Dece. 1686, I discovered a design of gaining a Lycence to Export 6000 Baggs of Wooll from Ireland, and prevented the same, p. 12th.*

*A discovery of a Confederacy betwixt the Officers of the Customs, and the Exporters of Wooll, p. 12th. 13th.*

*The Difficulty I was put to, and Examinations at the Treasury, p. 14th. 15th.*

[ 1 ]

THE

# PROCEEDINGS,

Of William Carter Against TRANSPORTATION  
OF  
WOOLL.

**W**Hereas divers Merchants, Clothiers and Factors, upon consideration of the great detriment that accrued to this Kingdom, and to the Woollen Trade thereof, in that great quantities of Wooll were transported frequently into *France, Holland, and Flanders &c.* did desire and encourage me, to endeavour the preventing the same; which being readily willing to undertake, I perceived that tho' there were many severe Laws made against exporting Wooll, and tho' the wisdom of our Ancestors found it so mischeivous and destructive to this Kingdom, as to make the Offence Capiral; notwithstanding either by the wilful corruption, or gross neglect of Officers, great quantities of Wooll were clandestinely exported, by those who, for a little private gain to themselves, dare venture their Necks, to ruin the Trade of a Nation.

Applying my self therefore cheerfully to so necessary a Work in *August 1667*, I made a discovery of twelve *French* Shallops loaded in one Night, from *Rumney-Marsh in Kent*, with considerable quantities of Wooll, and sometime afterwards, I caused a quantity of Wooll, to be seized as it was carrying on the Beach, near *Camber Point* in the said *Marsh*, in order to be shipped on board some Shallops, that lay in *Rye Harbour*.

I also discovered great quantities of Wooll, likewise exported beyond Sea out of *Ireland*; although in that Kingdom, the exportation thereof be also prohibited, unless the same by Licence be exported into *England*.

At the next Parliament, in *November 1667*. I presented the exportation of Wooll, and the National Dangers thereof, to the House of Commons, which being referred to a Committee, to consider of, they examining of the *Irish* exportations, soon found the ground of that Mischief to be, that under colour of a Licence granted by his late Majesty, to export some hundred Packs of Wooll, severall thousand Packs were colour'd by that Licence from *Ireland*: Upon which the said Committee made an Address to his said Majesty, to revoke the said Licence, for the apparent frauds practised therein, which his Majesty accordingly did.

After the adjournment of that Parliament, upon the importunity of the said Merchants, and finding the Wooll-exporters, by their impunity grown to such confidence, as to Ship off their Wooll openly in the day time, with armed Men to assist them, in the doing thereof; I petitioned his said Majesty for a party of Horse to scout about *Runny Marsh*, and some Frigats to cruise at Sea to prevent those exportations, which by his said Majestys Grace and Favour I did obtain, and by my attendance, sometimes at Sea, and sometimes at Land, with one and sometimes two Servants, did prevent the exportation of above one Thousand Packs of Wooll that Summer from the said *Marsh*, and by that means was bought up by the Clothiers and Staplers, which the Year before was most of it Exported.

In *September 1668*, I presented some proposals to his said Majesty in Council, in order to prevent the said exportations, which were referred the 20th of *November* following to the Council, of Trade, with this particular Order, (*Viz.*) "You are very strictly to enquire, and inform your selves by what ways and practises the Wooll of this Kingdom comes to be stolen, embesled, and sent away into foreign Parts, contrary to Law; what places (*&c.*) are most frequented in *England* for the same, and who doth buy the said Wooll in those places, to the

When I carryed this Order, with my Proposals, to the said Council of Trade, they immediately chose a select Committee on purpose to peruse them, where I was ordered to attend, which attendance lasted a good part of that Winter; the said Committee summoned and heard divers Merchants, Clothiers, Factors, and Staplers, and then made their Report, which was Read before his Majesty in Council, upon which, an Order was made the 2. of April 1669. in these words (*viz.*)

*Whereas in pursuance of an Order of this Board, of the 20th. of November last, referring to the Council of Trade the Proposals of William Carter, for preventing the Exportation of Wooll; the said Council having returned their Report to the Board, that having discoursed with the said William Carter, and such other Persons, as they thought capable of giving them any good information, touching this matter, they find the Exportation of Wooll, to be of a destructive consequence to the Trade of this Kingdom, and that the same hath grown into practice; as well by reason of the doubtfulness and provisions in the Statute made in the 12th year of his Majesties Reign Prohibiting the Exportation of Wooll, as by the neglect and remissness of Officers, in not putting the Laws in execution: And therefore proposed, that the care of that business, should be especially recommended to the President and Governors of Christs Hospital in London, for the several Reasons in the said Report, pursuant to which Report, his Majestie directed a Commission to pass under the great Seal of England for that purpose, to the said President and Governors; but before the Commission past under Seal, I did carry the said Report, and Order upon it to the President and Governors of the said Hospital, who immediately caused a Court to be called, and upon reading thereof, did accept of that Authority then intended to be given them, upon which I informed the Council of their willingness therein, and did then proceed and solicit the business so far, as to pass the Commission at my own charge, under the great Seal, and carried it to the President and Governors, in expectation they would have taken it upon them, as they had agreed, but in some short time after they declined the employment, and returned the Commission back to the King and Council, and plainly refused to act therein, upon some frivolous objections, without allowing me one penny for the money expended, which was not less then 40/. besides my own Labour and Attendance.*

The next Session of Parliament, being in the year 1669 *Sr. Orlando Bridgman* the then Lord Keeper, brought into the House of Lords an explanatory Bill for hindring the said Exportation, under some new penalties.

Before which time *William Facon* of *Canterbury* *Wooll-Comber*, and one *Marsh* of *Hoakam* near *Dover* a Farmer, were brought up before the House of Commons for Exporting 44 Packs of Combed *Wool* from *Canterbury*, where being examined, they were ordred to be tryed at the the next Assizes at *Maidstone* in *Kent*, whereupon I was comanded by his Majestie and Council, to prosecute them according to Law, for the said Felony; but when I came to *Maidstone* I could not hear of any such person, there being no Recognisance taken for their appearing there, nor any Witnesses attending to prove the Fact, so I lost my Journey but afterwards I understood that he had compounded with his Accusers, and taken off the Witnesses, so that the Order of the House of Commons, and his Majesties care therein, proved altogether ineffectual.

About *August* following in the same year 1669, understanding that the Late *Earl of Radnor* was designed to go *Lord Lieutenant* for *Ireland*, I petitioned his Majestie in Council, for some care to be taken in preventing the Exportation of *Wool* from *Ireland*, who was pleased to Order a Letter in Council, recommending the care thereof, to the said Lord Lieutenant, on whom I waited at his departure as far as *St. Albans*, and at my parting with his Excellency there, he promised to Act effectually therein, which his Lordship did accordingly: In so much, that within six weeks time after he came to *Ireland*, there were landed at *Minehead*, above one thousand Packs of *Wool* more in that time, than had been there landed within the like space of time, in any year before, and the like proportionable at *Liverpool*, *Chester*, *Bristol* and *Barnstable*, which quantitie of *Wool* in other years used to be Exported out of *Ireland* beyond the Seas, upon pretence of being shipped for *England*.

In a short time after, I made a discovery of five Vessels loaden with *wooll* arrived at *Callice* in *France*, one of which belonging to *Dover*, two to *Folkstone*, and two to *Hythe* in the County of *Kent*, upon which the Lord Keeper was ordred by the King in Council, to write a letter to the



Gentlemen,

**T**His bearer William Carter brings along with him a Copy of an Information, concerning the Transportation of Wooll; but it being a matter of so high concernment to his Majestie and this Kingdom, as scarce any thing more, to prevent the Transportation of Wooll, and the punishment of the Offenders: I do earnestly recommend it to you, to examine the Persons named in the Information, and to make all the enquiry you can, concerning these and such others, as you shall have cause to suspect to be guilty in this kind, and to certifie what you find herein, that his Majestie in Council may give further Orders thereupon, not doubting of your care herein,

Your Loving Friend

Esq. House, Aug. 30.  
1669.

Orlando Bridgman.

With this Letter I rode Post to Dover, and having there secured one Thomas Peirce, a Master of one of the said Vessels; whilst he was examining before the Mayor, his wife being present, and hearing the names read of the other Masters at *Folkstone*, and *Hythe* in the Information mentioned, and her Husbands Vessel then lying at *Folkstone*, she presently gets a Horse and rides thither, and discovers the business there; by which means, when I came to *Folkstone*, (tho' it was the same day) I was frustrated of my design there, the Mayor and Masters being all got out of the way before I came, but halting to *Hythe*, by chance met with one Mark Spicer, Master of another of the said Vessels: But before I could find the Mayor of *Hythe*, to examine the said Spicer, he made his escape towards *Folkstone*, whether I followed him, and just as he came to the Sea side, where a Boat lay to receive him, I seized him; but the Women of the Town being before alarmed by Peirce's Wife (it being all in one day) came out of their Houses, and gathered up stones upon the Beach, which they flung about my ears so violently, that having no help, I was forced to quit my Prisoner, hardly escaping my selfe.

Returning back to London, and there being a Council designed to meet at Hampton Court, I went thither and waited on the Lord Keeper Bridgman, to whome I gave an account of my whole Journey, his Lordship ordred me to attend while the Council sat, which I did, and was then called in and related all the said particular passages to his Majestie, who was pleased to command me to go down into Kent again, and ordered a party of Horse to assist me.

But before the party of Horse were ready, I received an Information of Ten Thousand Stones of Wooll, Shipt in five Vessels from *Galloway* in *Ireland*, and colorably entred for *Plymouth* and *London*, &c.

I better knowing, than being able to prevent the usual Frauds practised in *Ireland*, where under pretence of getting a Licence from the Lord Livetenant, to Ship Wooll for *England*, sometimes double the quantity Licenced was Shipt, and the Law requiring Bonds with sureties, to be given for landing the Wooll Licenced at some Port in *England*, some times insufficient Security was taken, and so the Bonds were of no effect, sometimes false and counterfeit Certificates were procured out of *England*, in discharge of those Bonds, that the Wooll was landed in *England*, when in truth it was not, sometimes those Bonds tho' actually forfeited and detected, yet were easily compounded for at low and cheap Rates, and at other times by the corruption of Officers, several Bonds were compounded for, as soon as they were entred into, even before the departure of the Vessel out of the Port, whereby Offenders were encouraged to break the Laws, by knowing and paying the price of their Punishment before they committed the Offence; which mischeifs being willing to obviate so far as I was able, upon diligent enquiring, I had good reason to suspect, the said Ten Thousand Stone of wooll was really designed to be Exported beyond the Sea, and not intended either for *Plymouth* or *London*, as was pretended by the

And thereupon I applyed my self to the then Farmers of his Majesties Customs, for an order to ride down into the Southern Ports, to examine what *wooll* was lately come thither from *Ireland*, to prevent Frauds by counterfeit Certificates, which I obtained. Being arrived at *Exeter* with their Order, I understood, that one *Blake* an *Irish* Man had been lately there, tampering with some of the Custom Officers, to get the Form of their usual Seal, and the Names of the said Officers; upon which I immediately wrote to my Correspondent in *Ireland*, who upon my Information found out the said *Blake* at *Galloway*, and discovered that he was concerned in all, or most of the said five Vessels, and that he had gotten counterfeit Certificates, Importing as if the said *wooll* had been really landed in *England*, when it was not, and by that Means was designing to get up or discharge the said Bonds, but I prevented the doing thereof by examining the Matter, and finding that some of those Vessels unloaded their *wooll* at *Flusben* in *Zeland*, one at *Amsterdam*, and one at *St. Mias* in *France*; of the Truth of which I procured Oaths and Attestations, some of which are now in my Custody, whereby these false Certificates were detected, and the discharge of those Bonds prevented.

Afterwards returning to *London*, and dispatching into *Kent*, according to His Majesties Command, the Party of Horse being then gone before to *Canterbury*, for my Assistance in *Ramsey-Marsh*, we had Notice of a parcel of *wooll*, secured in a House called *Brookmans-Turn*, which securing and the Person in whose Custody it was, a great Discovery by him (of other Exporters) was made and prosecuted, as more fully may appear here fier.

☞ Note, That *William Facon* before mentioned, who had been before the House of Commons, Anno Dom. 1668, was brought up to the King and Council, in Anno Dom. 1669, and before he could have his Tryal, was privately Compounded with by his Accusers the second time, tho' the King had expressly ordered his Tryal.

In September 1669, the Late King going to meet His Sister the Princess *Henrietta Maria*, at *Dover*, (during His abode there) going out one day to Sea, and observing a Vessel belonging to Captain *John Strell*, Sergeant to the Admiralty, to out Sail any of His own Pleasure Boats: Such was the Zeal His Majesty had against the Exportation of *wooll*, and his Care to prevent it, that He was pleased to hire Her on purpose for that Service, Commanding the Assistance of my Advice to the Captain, in Cruising about the Coast of *Kent*, to prevent the said Exportation, which was so successful, with some other Vessels for some time, that together with the Discovery before mentioned, both as to *Ireland* and *Kent*, a great stop was then put to the said Exportation; which is confirmed in a Letter, afterwards wrote from *Paris*, the 5th. of March 1671, viz.

Sir.

I Received Yours of the 17th. & 27th. of February, under covert, &c. about the *wooll* Affair; I have much reason to believe, unless some are made Examples, there will be continual Abuse; the Comodity both English and Irish, Raw and Combed, abound so much in these Countries, that for that which would yeild, not long since 8 Stivers and a half per. Pound, will yeild now but 5 and a half; yet they would be content to give 15 rather than rear it, for they cannot make abundance of Fabrik, viz. Wollen Manufacture, without English or Irish *wooll*.

There is a City not 5 Leagues from this, called *Tourney*, a Place renowned, for the making of all sorts of Stockings of *wooll*; it's not above 20 Years since, that they betook themselves to make the worsted Hose; A Trade, which in my Minority, was considerable from *London*, into these Countries, and now you may have a Parcel of English worsted Hose 20 Years by you, &c.

It's not above three Year: ago, that there was a scarcity of Combed *wooll*, in this Quarter of the Country, and several of those Stocking Merchants, came hither to buy some; I told them, that such severity was used in *England*, that People were mad if they Adventure.

The

The next Session of Parliament 1670, the House of Commons being under the Consideration of raising of Money for His Majesty; it was propounded, that Wooll might be Transported from Ireland, paying 2d. or 3d. Per. pound Custom, and 3 reasons was offered, the answer to which, I shall now wave till I come the to proceeding in Parlemt in a distinct discourse.

The Parliament then adjourning in the year 1671, I settled a Correspondancy in Ireland and Flanders, in order to know, whether the quantities of Wooll exported from one was caried to the other, and directed Captain *Steel*, the Owner and Master of the Vessel beforementioned to bear his course accordingly, but after this Correspondancy was settled I was taken ill of Feavor in June 1671 which held me 4 monthes, and a little time after the said Vessel was call'd in, and so the Exporters for some time had liberty to carry out their Wooll without controul.

In August 1671 one *Edward Nichols*, being committed to Newgate during my sickness for Transporting Wooll, and no per on being willing to prosecute him, was like to be discharged, upon which I as soon as I was recovered did immediately address my self to his Majesty in Council for the further continuance of the said *Nichols* in Prison, till he should be discharged by Law, and an Order was forthwith granted accordingly. But there arose a Question before the King and Council, in what Court he should be try'd, whether by the Admiralty, or by common Law (the Vessel being taken with the Wooll in the River of *Thames* near *Graves-end*) and it was refer'd to all the Judges to meet and consider the matter, and afterwards to Report their Opinion to the King, upon which Report, it was debated before the King in the presence of the said Judges, and then judg'd by the Admiralty, whether the said *Nichols* should be try'd by Common Law or not, and after a long consultation in the Council, it was Ordered as followeth, (*viz.*

*White Hall the 10th. of December 1671: It is this day Ordered by his Majesty in Council, that at the Request of the City of London do, and is hereby required, by the best wayes he can, speedily to find out in what County that part of the River of Thames lyeth, wherein the said Edward Nichols was apprehended, for Transporting of Wooll contrary to Law, and that he Report the same to the Lord Chief Justice of his Majesties Court of Kings Bench; to the end his Lordship may give order for removal of the said Prisoner, to the Goal of the said County, where it shall appear he was taken, in order to his Tryal at the next Assizes, to be holden for that County.*

But the burthen and care of observing this Order, lay chiefly on me: Tho' the Vessel was in truth taken with the Wooll on board on the *Essex* shore, and for that reason the Prisoner removed to *Chelmsford* Goal, and thence brought to Tryal at *Chelmsford* Assizes, yet upon examining the Witnesses on the Tryal it did appear, that the Prisoner was not secured when the Vessel was Seiz'd, tho' then on Board, but got away out of the Vessel, and two daies after were taken on Shore at *Graves-end*, upon which the Tryal was Ordered to be at the then next *Mai* Assizes, held for the County of *Kent*, which was the 12th. of March 1671, Where upon my prosecution, the said *Nichols* was try'd and Convicted of Felony, as afterward will more fully appear: About which time I did also discover the owner of the Wooll for which *Nichols* was Convict, and caused him to be taken into Custody, and unto Tryal also; but notwithstanding, his money purchased such Interest, that he did Compound and was discharged without my knowledg, and against my will: About which time, and before the Tryal of the said *Nichols*, I petitioned his late Majesty for some supply to carry on the Assayre; which being refer'd to the then Lord Chief Barron, his Lordship Reported as followeth, (*viz.*)



May it please Your Most Excellent Majesty.

*In Obedience to your Majesties second Order of Refferance bearing, date the 20th. of December last, hereunto annexed; I have considered of the Matter thereby to me Referred, and have discoursed with the Petitioner about his Charges and Expence, in prosecuting the Transporters of Wooll; the which he hath reduced to some certainty, and put it into writing, and hath also made Affidavit of the Truth thereof; the which is likewise hereunto annexed, whereby it appears that during these 4 Years last past, wherein he hath brought into your Majesties Exchequer about 800l. more than in former Tears had been received, he hath Expended near as much, but there be many more Informations still depending, if proved may bring in a grater Summ; But without some supply at present from your Majesty he will not be able to proceed with them; it therefore your Majesty be pleased to give your Petitioner 300l. it will encourage and Enable him to prosecute the Informations depending. And if he shall Convict the Offenders, he will be capable of your Majesties further Grace and Favour, all which I most humbly submit unto your Majesties Judgment.*

January 3d. 1671.

Ed. Turnor.

In which Report it doth appear that I had then expended 800l. and ordered 300l. in part til other Prosecutions brought in more Money, in a further pursuance of the said Offenders, expended about 150l. more, and the very Fees, Attendances, and Gratuities to relieve the ol. cost me 50l. so that I had then but 100l. towards my 800l. And tho' I had prosecuted several Offenders (*viz.*) Indicted some at the Assizes and exhibited divers Informations in the Exchequer against others, yet notwithstanding, partly by Compositions of the Officers, and partly by an Act of Parliament for a general pardon, I was then frustrated of my design, and prevented relieving the Ballance of my Accounts, besides which being then complained against by some, for using a Military Power, (*viz.*) a party of Horse in that Affaire, though on for the preservation of my own and others Lives, in execution of the known Laws; I was forced to decline that service at that time in Kent, the effect of all which was, that great quantities of Wooll was then exported, as well from Ireland as from Kent, which is confirmed by the following Letter, part of which I have before incerted to prove the effect of my first attempt, the remainder follows, (*viz.*)

*Both English and Irish Wooll, Raw and Kemberd abounds much in these Countreys, and for the Kemberd all, most of which comes from Dover and Canterbury Transporters: Callis, Deerp, St. Vallerys, Oliveile, Amens, Dunkirk, Ostend, Bridgees, Zealand, Rotterdam, and Ghent, all over these Provinces, every place is choaked with it; so that you may easily see how insensibly the Dover and Canterbury Transporters, draw the Kingdoms Hearts Blood from them; I could ad much more of the great benefit our Neighbours receive by it, which proves to an absolute Ruine; But I guess you can as easily comprehend my Meaning, as if I had further enlarged.*

*In a word France rejects our Fabricks at this day, presuming that they shall never want our Wooll to make their own fantastick Fabricks, which are so variable, as puts a great stop to the current trade, that used to be of our more solid Fabricks, for they will not stand so long the*



and so by this means, in time, all the World will be disgusted with our Fabricks, when by consequence they shall receive the Mode from the French; consider of this I pray, that so there may be some speed remedy.

Which Letter is confirmed by two other in these words, (*viz.*)

We have here a miserable Tarriff lately come forth, that Taxes Serges at 25, Cloth at 40, Cottens, &c. at 10 Florens per. 100 weight, the misery is the great quantity of Wooll that is stolen from England to France.

So repeating the substance of the former Letter only differing expressions, and more large concluding in the last thus, (*viz.* )

The French are now got into a way of making a low price sort of Cloth, called Searg de Berry, which comes as cheap as Northern Cloth, its about 5 quarters broad; they have so much, in which they have Cloathed a great number of their Souldiers, and all made of English and Irish Wooll.

After the Assizes were over, I went again into Kent, and abroad some time there, looking after the Exporters, on the Sea Coasts I found 2 Vessels near Hythe appointed, and lying ready to carry away Wooll, one of which I had been informed had done little else for a long time, of which William Bayly before mentioned was Master, the other Vessel was new built by another person usually employed in that design, but nothing was attempted whilst I was in the Country. But having occasion to come to London, I gave notice of the Design to two several Officers, by me appointed to be vigalent, who Seized 12 Packs of the Wooll designed to be Transported in one of the said Vessels, being brought down to the Sea side, ready to be ship'd off, and secur'd in the House of one Nicholas Davis, and afterwards part of it was rescu'd by the Inhabitants, who rose in the night with Weapons, to the number of 20 Persons, and wounding the Officers, carry'd away 8 of the said 12 Packs; but afterwards the said Nicholas Davis was taken and secured, in order to his Tryal.

Thereupon the said Nicholas Davis, together with Thomas Knight and Thomas Stoner, all three Inhabitants of Runny-Marsh, were by me prosecuted at Maidstone Summer Assizes 1671 for Transporting Wooll, where they were also Tryed and Convicted thereof; and the same Assizes, together with the said Edward Nichols, formerly convicted, were burnt in the Hand, as may appear upon Record.

These are to Certifie, that at the General Goal delivery holden at Maidstone, in the County of Kent, the 12th. of March in the 24th. Year of His now Majesties Reign 1671 Edward Nichols Marriner was convicted of Felony for Transporting of Wooll; And that on the first Day of August in the 24th. Year aforesaid, Thomas Night, Nicholas Davis, and Thomas Stoner, were convicted of Felony for the like Offence.

These are further to Certifie, that Wm. Carter Gent. did on His Majesties behalf attend the respective Tryals of the said Nichols, Night, Davis, and Stoner, for the respective Felonies aforesaid, and did then manage the respective Evidences against them, and thereupon cause them to be prosecuted and convicted for the said Felonies as aforesaid; given under my Hand, the 22th. of April. 1676, and in the 28th. Year of our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second, &c.

Tho. Lee  
Clark of the Assizes.

These Proceedings being carryed on in the Intervale of Parliaments, at the next Session I procured and solicited a Bill to pass, so far as to be read twice, refered and engrossed in the House of Commons, being the Substance of that Bill before mentioned, brought in by the

Lord Keeper *Bridgman*, but by the Means of one Mr. *Francis Monk*, it was obstructed, on purpose to usher in another Bill of his projecting, pretendedly to obstruct, but intendedly to encourage the Exporting Wooll, as by a Draught of the said Bill it self is ready to be made appear.

In the Year 167<sup>o</sup>, the said Mr. *Monk* Solicites another Bill in the House of Commons; pretending thereby to make the Laws more practicable; but intending to Repeal the strength of the Act in the 14<sup>th</sup> Year of his late Majesties reign, which Bill being Committed, and almost past the Committee (I being so much discouraged for want of Money, that I had little Interest in the Clarks) nevertheless watching his Motion, did get a worthy Member to move the Committee, to appoint some *Merchants* and *Factors* to attend them, and to the end, for that time adjoined, by which means I prevented his design that Day: And in the mean time printing some Reasons against the Exportation of Wooll, for the Information of the Committee, before their next Meeting; whereupon his Bill was rejected and laid aside.

After which time little was to be done in Parliament, for 3 or 4 Years, by reason of other things then Transacted.

But about the Year 1682, Mr. *Monk* Petitioned the late King in Council, to have a Commission Empowering divers Persons to put the Lawes in Execution against the Exportation of Wooll, some of which Persons came to my House in the Country, upon the Pretence that some Gentlemen at *White Hall*, being willing to undertake the business, and hearing that I had spent some time in that Affaire, desired my Assistance, and to give them a Meeting, which accordingly I did, and had several Meetings with the Gentlemen, till I was informed by some of them that Mr. *Monk* was concerned: Upon which notice I told the Gentlemen, that the Project laid by Mr. *Monk* would not do, and advised them to save their Money, and so parted: But notwithstanding my Caution, they did proceed upon the said Petition before mentioned, untill their whole Designe was laid aside, as you will find by the following References, and Reports thereon, (viz.)

By an Order of Council dated the 2<sup>th</sup> March 1682. and the Reports from the Lords Committee of Trade, &c. made to his late Majestie upon the Petition of *Francis Monk* and others, praying a Commission to put in Execution the Lawes Prohibiting the Transportation of Wooll, &c. Informing his said Majestie that there were very great abuses in unlawful Exportations of that kind, which were of pernicious consequence, and that the stricts of the Commissioners to be employed in that Affaire, and the cautions to be used therein, were referred to the late Lords of the Treasury to consider of, for the better putting of the Lawes in Execution.

The matter of the said Order of Council, with other Papers and Proposals, made by the Petitioners, were referred by their Lordships, to the Commissioners of his said Majesties Customs; who by their Report dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1683 do approve that some Persons be appointed for that Service, under such Authority as should seem meet: And that the Persons to be intrusted ought to be of known Honesty.

Also the whole Matter aforesaid was referred to Mr. *Attorney General*, who made his Report concurring with the Commissioners of the Customs; and he further adds, that Security should be given, that upon Seizures no Compositions should be made without Lycence.

After which, the whole matter and Reports being referred to the Company of *Merchant Adventurers of England*; they Reported that all Persons, that shall faithfully endeavour to hinder the Exportation of Wooll, &c. as aforesaid (without connivance to the Offenders, or sinister regard to themselves) ought to be encouraged; for as much as the Exportation is become a National Mischief, and threatens the utter Ruine of the Woollen Trade, if not timely prevented; that several Necessitous Persons, having been formerly Commissionated, studying their own Profit, instead of hindering the said Exportation, have rather Assisted and Promoted, than Prevented the same.

Which Reports being Read by their Lordships, and the Answer of Mr. *Monk*, were sent the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 1683 to the said Company for their further Consideration; who in April 1684 sent for me to attend them about the whole matter; who after several meetings with a Committee of the said *Merchants Adventurers, Livery and Full-Land Companies*, I attended the

Sea Coast with 2 Men, one on Board Captain *Brown*, and another on the Shore, by which great quantities of Wooll were Seized and Condem'd, and much more prevented from being Exported that Summer, than was Seized or Condemned.

The said *Monck* and others Exhibiting again further Proposals for the carrying on that Service, on the 4th. of *April* 1684, the same were transmitted to the Commissioners of the Customs, who the 25th. of the same Month, Reported that they did look upon those men not fit to be Employed in so great a Trust, notwithstanding they produced the Certificates of several Clothiers, &c. Purporting their desire that the said persons might be employed in that Service, which Clothiers &c. So Certifying they found to be generally mean Persons, not to be credited in a thing of that Nature and Consequence: and requiring the said undertakers to produce Certificates from known Merchants, *Blackwell-Hall* Factors &c. they declined to do the same.

The said Company of Merchants-Adventurers of *England*, made their Report on the Papers sent the Commissioners the 10th. of *March* 1683 wholly against the undertakers, for that they designed their own private profit, more than the effectual carrying on the intended Work; and the said Company were well assured that if the undertakers could have no gain at all, Honestly, they would of necessity miss the main design of their undertaking.

Upon all these Transactions there was a Petition drawn up by me, and exhibited to the said Lords of the Treasury by several Clothiers and Factors of the Woollen Manufacture within the Countys of *Worcester, Gloucester, Somerset* and *Wiltshire*; and taking notice that the undertakers were designing to obtain such a Commission as aforesaid, upon supposition that they were thereunto encouraged by many Thousands of the Woollen Manufacturers, the Petitioners disown any such Power, and do therein Pray that the proposals, being matter of weight, may be recommended to the *Hamburgh, Turkey* and other Companys, whom the Petitioners were assured would propose such methods for effecting the said Prohibitions, as may be most effectual and successful.

Upon which Petition the said late Lords of the Treasury caused Letters to be written to the said Companys, taking notice in the said Letters what proceedings had been made therein, and also sending Copys thereof; did in the said Letters desire the said Companies or some of their members to meet together to peruse the said Papers, and consider of such Rules and Methods as they should judge proper and sufficient for the effectual restraint of the Exportation of the said Commodity; and in the said Letters desired the said Companys to send their Resolution thereon in writing; as also whether they or any of their Members would be willing to engage in the Care of seeing the Laws for Prohibiting the Exportation of Wooll observed.

A Committee of each company mett, and the Letters and Papers being Read (and my Proposals for a Method) all concluded it necessary to find out some fund proportional to the Charge when adjusted; at which time by one of the Committee it was declared the Clothiers were ready for their part to contribute 1600*P.* Per. Annum. And it was then propounded that the same should be farther communicated to other Merchants trading for *France, Spain, Portugal, &c.* for to procure likewise their assistance. And it was also agreed by the said Committees at their next meeting to come prepared with resolutions how much each Company would raise.

At which meeting the necessary Charge was brought in to amount to about 4000*P.* Per. Annum; after which time the Factors of *Blackwell-Hall*, in behalf of the Clothiers entred into a Voluntary Subscription of 2*d.* Per. Cloth, 1*d.* Per. Serge, and so Pro Rato, to raise their 1600*P.* beforementioned, for 3 Years.

The Merchant Adventurers of *England*, agreeing to contribute 300*P.* Per. Annum for the like time, and other Companys, by their Deputys agreeing likewise to contribute in proportion to their Trade in the Woollen Manufacture.

These Subscriptions being entered into, the Difficulty lay how to Collect it; the Parliament then suddenly meeting, a Bill was drawn up by me, corrected by Council, and approved of by the then Lord Treasurer, which Bill, had not the Parliament been Prorogued, and I straitned for want of Money, would probably have passed into a Law, there being nothing on my part



I That saying I Petitioned his Majestie for two *Sloops* to be employed for the preventing Exportation of Wooll; and tho' there was some Opposition to it, yet his Majestie was Graciously pleased to give Order to Sett out the said *Sloops* in that service, and the Care for their direction being committed to me, I did accordingly undertake it: and whilst the Vessels were preparing at *Dover* I sent over a Man to *Calice* to make some discovery, which he effectually did: and as soon as one of the Vessels were ready, I went to Sea in her, and sent for my Man to come from *Calice*, fearing he might be discovered, and had he not hastened at the receipt of my Letter, in all probability he might have been Killed; for another Person was let upon in *Calice* as supposing him to be my Man, and was like to have been Murdered, had not his Landlord rectified the *Fren-h-Mens* mistake: Meeting my Man at Sea in the Packet-boat, we took him on Board, and by his discovery we took several *French* Shallops before we came into *Dover*, and tho' great Opposition was made in the Exchequer by many *Clayners* and other vexatious motions there, to discourage me; yet I prosecuted, and condemned three in Michaelmas Term 1685, and caused more to be Seized at that time, which afterward were prosecuted to Condemnation; and in the middle of *December* I took a Journey into the North, leaving my Man at *Dover*, to observe my directions whilst absent. The Exporters contriving how to hinder my design, had got a *Quo minus* out of the Exchequer against him for 500<sup>l</sup>. in the name of *John Noble*, a Person that he never saw or heard of before, and kept it in their hands above a Month, that they might surely fix him in Prison, because the Vessels were discovered by him (I having sent him privately to *Calice* for that purpose) and also the Information Exhibited in his name, tho' the Forfeiture of forreign Vessels are wholly the Kings. And before they executed their *Quo minus*, some of them made Affidavit and sent it up to *London*, and moved the Court of Exchequer the first day of the next Term (*viz*) 23<sup>th</sup> of *January* 1685 for an attachment against him, under pretence of a Contempt of an Order of Court, for not delivering of a Vessel Seized and not Condem'd; and an Attachment was awarded against him, unless he shewed Cause to the contrary in five or six dayes; and that he might not be capable of shewing Cause, the said Exporters, as soon as they heard of an order of Court, Arrested him and carried him a Prisoner to *Dover-Castle*, upon the 500<sup>l</sup>. Action; but Mr. *Bretton* the Collector of *Dover*, believing it to be a sham Action, designed to Bayle him, till *William Eaton* (one of the contrivers) sent him a Letter to dissuade him, assuring him it would be proved a Real Debt; so he was forced to ly in Prison.

About this time coming home I was informed of the Order of the Court of Exchequer, and the next day, I did appear my self in the said Court, and owned the proceedings of my Man, as done by my Order, and therefore would be lyable to the Judgment of the Court for what he had done, and sent for him up to answer, not knowing him then to be a Prisoner in *Dover-Castle*: but being informed of that, I moved the Court upon an Affidavit, and got a friend with me, and we became Bayle in Court, and removed him by *Hebeas Corpus*: so all that business fell to the ground; till afterwards having gott him a Prisoner att *Bulloine* In *France*, they proceeded against him on a signed Action in the Crown Office, and would have brought it to Tryal att *Maidstone* Assizes, but I stopt it at Mr. Attorney-Generals.

After which time, upon the encouragement of the Contribution before mentioned, there were fitted out two of the best of those *French* Vessels which I had gott condemned; and together with the assistance of those two *Sloops* his Majestie (upon my petition) had Set out, there has been about 20 Vessels seized and condemned, and divers parcels of Wooll, besides great quantites cast over board by the Exporters, that they and their Vessels might make their escape.

But in the midst of these Transactions the late Lord Treasurer hearing little from the Merchants, after his Majestie had sett out the two *Sloops* before mentioned, his Lordship by his Letter dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of *March* 1686, to the Company of Merchant Adventurers of *England*, press the said Company, to consider what his Majestie had done, in setting out two *Sloops* as an encouragement for them to proceed; and of what evil Consequence Delays were in that concern. To which the said Company, by their Letters of the 24<sup>th</sup> of the same Month, in-



formed his Lordship what progress they had made in that matter; and that for their share they had resolved to contribute 300*l. Per Annum* for 3 Years; as the Factors had for their Clothiers, by their Subscriptions of 2*d. Per Cloth* ( and for the better carrying on the said Work, had ordered two Sloops that had been taken and condemned by me, to be fitted out for that Service ) though other Merchants had not come to any Resolution in that matter, how much they would contribute. Upon the Receipt of this Letter his Lordship directed Letters dated the 30<sup>th</sup>, of the same month to the other Companys, to inform them what progress the said Company of Marchants Adventurers had made, &c. Whereupon the said Companys ( or most of them ) gave answer to his Lordship of their readiness to assist proportionable to their Trade, for so good a Work; Copies of which Letters were sent to the Merchants Adventurers, by Mr. Guy, the 10<sup>th</sup>. of April following (*viz.*) 1686.

And having, as before mentioned, caused not only so many Vessels and great quantities of Wooll to be condemned at my own Charge, tho' in the Officers names, and intending to bring up the Wooll to London to be sold to Clothiers, ( it being generally sold before by the Officers to the Exporters ) some of the Officers refused to agree thereto, because it would yeild more money at Dover: upon which in May 1686, I wrote to then Lord Treasurer the matter of Fact, and his Lordship by Mr. Guy ordered the Commissioners of the Customs to direct their Officers to permit me to take the Wooll as appraised ( I paying the Charge ) and bring it up to London, to be sold to the Clothiers. In pursuance thereof, after I had condemned the Wooll at my own charge, and paid the King's moiety into the Exchequer, and remitted money to Dover, and paid the Officers moiety, with all their charge there, I ordered it to be brought up: And having settled things at Dover, as I thought well, and exhibited several Informations in the Exchequer on the Forfeitures of 3*s. per. Pound*, and prepared to Prosecute others on the Statute of the 14<sup>th</sup>. of Charles the second. By this means so great a stop was put to the said Exportation by these Prosecutions, that Wooll did rise in France above 30. *per. Cent.* in 6 months time, (*viz.*) between January 1685, and July 1686: After which I took a Journey into the North on the Borders of Scotland, in order to prevent the mischiefs in those parts; but whilst there, was informed, that some of the Officers of the Customs in confederacy with the Exporters, did endeavour to obstruct my Proceedings, which they had been a long time contriving.

And whilst I was in the North, was informed that the Wooll I had condemned for the Officers in their own Names, and paid all the Charges, and running the risk of bringing it up to London, as before mentioned, was by one of the Officers sold by some under hand means, and he received part of the money for it, which I had fully paid him for before, and so went out of Town, which occasioned a great Controversy betwixt my Friends here, ( that had supplied me with money, and to whom the Wooll should have been delivered ) and some others: This coming to the Ears of the Exporters at Canterbury and Dover in few hours, for their encouragement ( as well as it came to me in the North for my discouragement ) their Plot took effect, and so from that time, (*viz.*) August and September 1686, the Exporters revived their old Trade that in a little time twenty thousand Packs were exported: The forementioned Officer was Commander of one of the Sloops that I had prevayled by Petition to his Majestie to fit out and would have been put out of his place through his folly long since, and the Sloop laid aside; had not I through the importunity of his Friends born with him, and kept him in; by which means the advantage he hath received thereby, cannot be less than 600*l.* in 2 Year and halfe time; but having for some time left him to his own conduct, he is through his Folly and Knavery dismissed from his employ.

At my return from the North, the first thing to be done was to get my man out of Prison, but in little or no Capacity to hinder the said Exportation from *Engl.* the 2 Vessels before mentioned that were put out, being laid up, having neither Power to Seize Wooll, nor Collect money to prosecute the Offenders.

After which time I Petitioned the then Lord Treasurer to Impower the said Companies Factors and Clothiers, &c. that had entered into a voluntary Contribution, that they might

ners of the Customes nothing was done; this attempt sayling I Petitioned his Majestie in Council, some time after to the same effect, annexing a Copy of the Commission to Christs Hospital before mentioned, which being referred to the Lords Commissioners of his Majestys Treasury about February 1686, their Lordships referred the whole to the Commissioners, as before the late Lord Treasurer had done, and there it relee.

Nevertheless, tho' I could not do what I would, yet I neglected no opportunity I was capable of; for hearing that there was a design privately to procure a Licence to Export 60000 Pags of Wooll from Ireland; which might contain 20000 Packs: the Names of the Persons being given to me, I went immediately to Mr Attorney Generall, Treasury, Secretary of State and Signet Offices, and entered protests at each Office; and a Friend of mine wrote a Letter to a Worthy Merchant and Gentleman in the Country, who did immediately, with some other Gentlemen write to a great Minister of State; who was pleased to answer as followeth, (viz.)

Gentlemen,

*Yours of the fourth Instant was conveyed to me last night, while I attended his Majestie at Council, which I immediately communicated: Both His Majestie and we have had the honour to attend him were all surprized by the Malicious False Report that you seem to insinuate, had obtained credit in your Neighbourhood, of His Majesties Intentions, to give Licence for the Transportation of Irish Wooll to parts beyond the Seas: It hath been so farre from His Majesties Intentions, that He has long ago given strict Orders, both to His Admirals, and in His severall Ports to use their utmost endeavours for the strict Prosecution of all Offenders in that kind, and hath further given directions to the Officers of the Customes, to give their utmost assistance in the Affair: But for your satisfaction the Kings Commanded me to let you know His Royal Pleasure therein, and that He expects You to take Care that His Royal Intentions may be made Publick.*

*I have also in Command that the Justices of the Peace, do take special Care to satisfy the Country in this particular; so Gentlemen having no more at present to trouble you, I crave leave to Subscribe myself, &c.*

London 14th. Feb. 1686.

After which time some of the Officers in further pursuance of their design, to baffle me in my proceedings for future prevention of some persons in Office for reparation, that I was rendered thereby wholly incapable of any thing, and by some greatly reflected on, that I had prevailed by the means of certain Merchant, to have a hearing before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesties Treasury: At which hearing it was judged reasonable, I should be re-imburs'd in Charge in that service, and ordered to bring my Account, and Certificates from Mr. Job. Howard, what money was brought into the Exchequer by my Prosecutions; which being done, and their Lordships referring the whole matter to the Commissioners of Customes, in May 1687, upon receipt of which, the Commissioners were pleas'd to direct Letters to the Officers, (in whose Names I had prosecuted and paid in the money, as before mention'd) to know whether they did own what I had done, and some of them, (even these very men, that I had directed how to Seize, and undertook to runn the risk, as before mentioned, for their Advantage) were not only so base as to deny what I had done  
for

for them, but also guilty of Forgery; so at that time I was rendered by some very Obnoxious, and at the same time perplexed in the Court of Exchequer by the Exporters; and was forced to pay great Summs in my own defence, and particularly for one Witness being his Bayle it cost me near 50l.; notwithstanding all which, I at last recovered my self in my Reputation, and gave Answer to those Officers Letters, and sent it to the Commissioners as followeth. (viz.)

Whereas it hath been objected that I pretend the Prosecution of Wooll and Vessels, when is hath been done by the Officers, and Letters are produced, which would seem to make good the pretence; to instance one for all, (viz.) Captain Knight's to the Commissioners.

May it please Your Honours,

*The Wooll I have taken and seized was by my own  
F designes and Industry, Condemned by a due Course of Law, and the  
King's Majesty paid with my own Money: Nor I humbly pray your Honours  
that if his Majesty please to grant the Bounty, I may receive it for my En-  
couragement,*

*Your Honours most Obedient  
and Humble Servant*

Dover the 9th.  
of June 1637.

Peter Knight.

In answer thereunto, I shall annex the Affidavit of two of his own men, that prove, that Captain Knight was not at Dover, at the time of the date of the pretended Letter; but at Sea six Days before and four after, and by an Affidavit of his Sonns, that the matter in the Letter is False, by which others may be judged; besides the matter of John Knight's Affidavit, I did, in a late parcel of Wooll, Seized by the said Captain Knight, Condemn and pay the Charges and the King's full price, as it was appraised; yet when I sold it, I was forced to abate 3l. for lack of the Appraisalment, and sold to the loss, singly, that I might not hinder the bringing up the Wooll, tho' it yielded more Money at Dover than here, being done before the Proclamation came forth: The Truth of this Answer will appear in the following Affidavits, (viz.)

Robert Kdman and William Ayres maketh Oath, that these Deponents being employed under Captain Peter Knight, Commander of a Sloop to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, and having been at Sea with the said Captain Knight as Mariners, in his Majesty's Service about ten Days, came not on Shore from Sea, till Sunday last: by which reason they could not appear according to the contents of a Subpoena issued out of this Honourable Court, requiring them to be at Westminster on Monday last at one of the Clock, to give their Testimony for the King against Henry Culmer. And they could not possibly come to London before Tuesday morning last, and are come on purpose to give their evidence at

time enough on Munday, and they are able to prove, that the said Henry Culmer hath Exported divers quantities of Wooll, having taken him in the Fact of Exporting the same.

Jur. Decimo sept. Die  
Aprilis 1687. Coram me,  
E. Atkins.

Robert Kedman.  
W. A. the mark of  
William Aires.

John Knight maketh Oath that being employed as Mate under his Father Peter Knight in the Service of the Customes, for about sixteen Years past, he hath observed that after the Seizures of Wooll by the Custome-House Officers, the Owners of the Wooll, or some Agent for them generally bought the Wooll of the Officers, which afterwards was Commonly exported, and this he hath the greater reason to believe, for that several times, when this Deponent hath been present at the Seizing of Wooll, after the same hath been condemned, he hath taken the very same parcels again at Sea, as it hath been Exporting the second time.

And that several Officers, after they have Seized Wooll, have delivered it to the Owners, without any Proceedings therein.

And this Deponent further saith, that when his Father formerly made Seizures of Wooll, he agreed with the Superior Officers of the Customes, to give them part of the benefit of his Seizures, besides the full Charge of the Prosecution to Condemnation; by which the said Officers generally had an equal Profit of the said Seizures, with the said Peter Knight; but since Mr. Carter hath looked after the Exporters, the said Carter hath paid the said Peter Knight all his Charges, in Taking, Appraising and Condemning the Vessels and Wooll, and the full Moiety thereof clear of all Charges, and besides when the Wooll Condemned was Sold for more than the Appraisement, the overpluss was paid by the said Carter to his Father Peter Knight.

Jur. Decimo Tertia die  
April Anno Dom. 1687.  
Ed. Atkins.

John Knight.

And as to the Charge in General of my discouraging Diligent Officers,

In Answer to which, as the Affidavit of John Knight before mentioned, do in part prove the contrary: So I do Averr and shall make good, that in the Seizures of Wooll and Vessels, that I have undertook to Prosecute, I have bore all the Charge and run the risk, in Case the Wooll and Vessels were not Condemned, and have Prosecuted in the Officers Name, who have had the full benefit of the Moiety thereof, tho' I have been at the Seizing both of Wooll and Vessels my self.

And besides the Charges in Prosecuting and condemning the said Wooll and Vessels in the Exchequer, I have actually paid amongst the said Officers near 2000. for their Charges about



undertook, the Officers would have let fall; by all which it doth appear, whether I have discouraged Officers, and gained my self, when I have within this four Years spent 1000l. in Travailing, and in the said Prosecutions, besides Servants Wages and my own time, and keeping of Horses, towards all which I have received between 2 and 300l.

After which time I Petitioned the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, laying before their Lordships my Case and Suffering in my Service, and what Damage His Majestie and the Kingdome sustained thereby; and had prepared for Tryal of a Transporter in Michaelmas Term, being not able to proceed and having borrowed diverse great Sums to carry on the Affayre so farr; which being referred to the Commissioners of the Customes, they ordered their Solicitor to disburd the Money, upon which I proceeded, and as before said the Exporter; some time after I attended the Commissioners upon the former reference, who were pleased to make Report as followeth.

May it Please your Lordships

*In obedience to your Lordships commands upon the annexed Petition, and other Papers of Mr. Carters, delivered to us by your Lordships in May last We have considered the said Petition and Papers; and as humbly Report to your Lordships that we have observed the Petitioner to have been a very Zealous prosecutor of the Transgressions, and transgressors mentioned in the Petition, and that upon his motion the King was pleased about two years since, at his own charge to fit out two Vessels to prevent the Transportation of Wooll, which are continued in that Service to this day, that in his proceedings he hath met with great opposition and difficulty, and upon that consideration he has upon diverse occasion obtained favourable Reports from this Board; as a Person fit to be countenanced and encouraged in his proceedings: yet we never intended that his charge was to be born by the King, supposing his recompence to be out of his share of such penalties and Forfeitures, as he should himself Prosecute and recover, or should be otherwise contributed to him, by the Merchants and Clothiers, who he alledged to be willing to undergoe the Charge, and by the Account herunto annexed we find that he has run himself into very great Expence, and we are informed that not having met with the Encouragement he Presumed upon from the Merchants and others, he has much lessened his own private fortune thereby. Upon the whole Matter we are humbly of opinion that he has with great Heartiness and Zeal, Prosecuted the Offenders and Vessels, that have been Guilty in Transporting Wooll, and that he hath dealt therein with all Honesty and Integrity, and we are humbly of Opinion that the said Account herunto annexed, is a true Account, he having offered to make Oath of the Truth thereof, and we do Humbly recommend the same to your Lordships Favourable consideration, but we cannot advise the disposing of his Majesties part of the Forfeiture, otherwise than they are already disposed by Proclamation.*

In which Report you may perceive my Actions and Integrity, and that I have not received the Money I have expended, much less any thing for my Time, Hazard and Labour, nor for my Servants, or keeping of Horses these four Years, besides former Disbursements, part of which was before mentioned in the late Lord Chief Baron's Report; more you may perceive by these following Lines, what I Wrote to the Merchants and Clothiers, and Printed it, as an Advertisement to them, in the Year 1672. (*viz.*)

*A Brief Advertisement to the Merchants and Clothiers, &c.*

G E N T L E M E N,

I Had an Intention, the beginning of the last Summer, (before a long and chargeable Fit of Sickness beset me for near three Months,) to inform you in what state that Affair about Exportation of Wooll, then stood; in which the Life and Death of your Trade, and the subsistence of many Thousands of Families, that depend on that *Manufacture*, consists.

Give me leave, (by some of the many instances I could give,) to demonstrate, that, my Labour, in this affair, hath not been fruitless altogether.

I have now been four years engaged in this Service: and how I have been forced, as well upon Travels, as Watching both by Sea and on shore, I presume is well known to many of you.

And what expence I have been at, in that time, both for servants and horses, and in my attendance at Court, and on the Parliament, gratuities to Sea-men, and parties of horse, and for the holding, and maintaining correspondencies in *Ireland, Flanders, &c.* You cannot but in some measure be able to apprehend.

And that it must be the greater, in that I have not spent six daies, in twelve Moneths, at my own habitation, with my Friends: either to abate expences, or to look after any private business of my own.

What damage I have sustained, by losing my Trade in pursuance of this affair, is well known (at least) to some: for,

When first I undertook this Affair, I intended to spend only one Month, or thereabout, in attending on the Parliament for a new Act, which held me near six Moneths; and at the Adjournment of the Parliament, I returned to my calling; it being kept on foot for me, during the time of my attendance.

But those that knew my Trade at that time, know right well what opportunities of advantage I lost slip.

Therefore it must be a great mistake in some, that think I took up this Affair, as though I had nothing else to doe.

For I was importuned by several Merchants and Others, soon after the Adjournment of the Parliament, to address my self unto his Majesty in Council, for a Party of Horse, to be in *Rumby Marsh* in *Kent*, where the greatest part of the Wooll is shipped from *England*; and some Frigats, for preventing the said mischief; which through his Majesties favour and encouragement, I did obtain.

Upon the promise of those Merchants, to re-imburse my charge, I proceeded.

And had those Merchants and Others, perform'd their promise, as some few did, I had done much more than I have, (though I have left nothing undone, that I was capable to perform, or doe, considering how little assistance I had from others) and indeed, my endeavours in this business, have had so good success, as to prevent many Thousand Packs of Wooll from exportation, that the effect evidenced it self (at that time obvious to many Merchants, from their correspondents beyond Sea,) in the rise of Wooll there and the fall here.

But

...for want of encouragement and attendance military; how  
...made to the heart. I need not tell you, for, such is the gaine and  
...the transporting of this commodity, that if any employed, or entrusted  
...will be bribed, they need not make complaint for want of Money, I do assure you  
...and if for my integrity must fall, (and be forced to quit this service,) after all this four years  
labour and travail, It will be no encouragement to any other Person, to engage a-fore  
therein.

Give me leave to adde, that it was no small grief to me, during my sickness, to here  
the many hundred packs of Wooll that were exported, (both from *England* and *Ireland*,  
more than had been at other times, which you will easily see in the ensuing Petition and Let-  
ter; and my trouble was so much the more for as much as the King had given Order, a little  
before, that a Vessel purposely hired, because of Her swiftnes, should attend that affair, and  
though I had made provision (by correspondance) for intelligence to prevent that mischief  
yet I had not Money to pay Servants, nor to encourage my correspondents, nor that I could  
find any willing or able to pursue the said business, either because of the hazard or pains, or  
expensiveness thereof. The effect of which about *Michalmas* last, occasioned this following  
Petition.

## To the Kings most excellent Majesty

### The Humble Petition of several Merchants.

*Sheweth,*

**T**hat although many severe Laws, have been made against the Transportation of Wooll  
nevertheless, many evil-disposed Persons, do frequently Ship-off great quantities thereof  
to the great decay of the Cloathing-Trade of this Kingdom, and to the undoing of many the  
fant Families, who lived comfortably thereupon: and being through an ill custom, sold in  
forraign parts, as cheap as in many many places of this Kingdom; by means whereof, the  
Woollen Manufacture of this Nation, findes but small vend abroad, and dayly decreaseth  
price; so that neither the Clothier, nor Merchant, have any encouragement, in making,  
transporting the same; together with such great duties imposed by the *French* King, and  
others; as in effect amounts to an absolute prohibition, (and that no purpose to encourage the  
Manufacture of their own Country.) Which if by some effectual means, be not speedily pre-  
vented, must in a short time, wholly destroy the great Manufacture, and Staple trade of the  
your Majesties Kingdom and consequently to the decreasing of your Majesties Revenues,  
the Custom; and that more particularly of late dayes, a greater quantity of Wooll, hath been  
transported then formerly, by reason, as is doubted, of the connivance of some Officers, and  
easily compounding with the transporters when discovered, which gives great encouragement  
to those Persons, to continue in this most destructive course

Your Petitioners most humbly pray, that your Majesty, would be pleased to issue out your Royal  
Proclamation, commanding all Officers and Others, to put the Laws in execution, that so  
may take notice thereof: there being many poor people employed in shipping off the wooll, in  
pretend ignorance, and know not the Penalty of the Law: and that no compounding be made  
with any, but the Laws may be severly put in execution, against all Persons that may  
found guilty.



I have before upon this occasion inserted the substance of a Letter Dated, *Flanders* the 5th. 1671. yet I cannot wase a repetition of this part of it.

Sir

I received yours of the 17 February, under Covert from *Ec.* about the Wooll-affair. I have much reason to believe, unless some are made Examples, there will be continual abuse; the Commodiry, both *English* and *Irish*, Raw and Comb'd, abound so much in these Countries, as at present it's worth nothing. &c.

Now Sirs, how both these do answer, to what was said before, that unless this Business be continually attended, by some Person, that will be faithful; there will be an inevitable ruine of the Clothing Trade, may be easily perceived.

Give me leave further to inform you, what great Sense his Majesty himself hath also of this Affair; who hath been pleased to evidence it, both by his Care and Charge, in not only commanding His Troops, but several Frygots to attend upon every Occasion, beside his Hiring a Vessel; he also hath spent many dayes in Council about it; and in declaring his resolution, strictly to execute all the Laws against the Transportation of Wooll, and to further all rational Proposals, that can be further made; and did order (upon reading the fore-mentioned Petition of the Merchants) his Royal Proclamation, to be issued out about this Matter.

Now for a conclusion, Gentlemen: If this service be acceptable, and that it be carryed on, you cannot imagine, it can be done without supplies. For, you cannot expect the King should take the charge of it wholly upon himself; of which, the profit will mostly return to his Subjects. Nor that I should, if I were able, bear it my self, though indeed I have done it beyond what my condition could well permit me; and it's very plain, what hath been the consequence of my being discouraged, and taken (wholly off) but three Months from this Affair.

Sirs, I hope you will believe, and it's but Rational, so to do; if I have spent so much of my time, and strength, mostly upon my own charge, with those hazard I have been exposed to, these four years, in this Affair, with that little encouragement I have received: that if encouraged but with necessary supplies, so that I might not be taken off my pursuit, that I might do much more than I have; and the rather, because every thing is more easie than it was at first, having discovered so many Persons, and their wayes, and several in custody, in order to their Tryal, some Convicted: its Rational, at least to suppose the way fair, to put a stop, to this most destructive course.

Gentlemen, These instances are not of small import. To the whole Affairs, and that the agitations about them: call for no small attendance and travel; nor is it without its own charges, accompanying dispatches.

I have also given Declarations to two Persons, for transporting above three Hundred packs of Wooll, and had prepared Tryals with them; but was forced to forbear two or three Terms for want of Assistance to prosecute them; for such Potent Persons, are not easily run down: if they, and their Confederates know once with whome they have to doe, (if they will not be bribed) and that Money is wanting to prosecute, they can finde wayes by Friends; and Money, to make Suits delatory and chargeable; besides an other mischief, of taking off Witnesses: Of which you will see a Demonstration afterwards.

At *Easter* or *Trinity* Term 1669, one Mr. *John Morten* prosecutes *Mark Gabree* in the Exchequer, for transporting of Wooll. The said *Gabree* removes it into *Surry*, where Mr. *Morten* brings it to Tryal, *Midsummer* Assizes following, and subpena's one *Thomas Pettley*, who had been *Gabrees* Wooll-Kember: *Morten* obtains a Verdict against the said *Gabree*; but so it was ordered, that whereas the forfeiture was three Shillings per pound, he had but twelve pence: and being but a small parcel, he lost by it.

At *Michaelmas* following, the Tryal aforesaid, *Gabree* arrests *Pettley*, by a Writ of the Crown Office for Perjury, out of revenge; and to undo him, being but a poor man, and make him incapable of being Witness any more; and to deter others.

At *Midsummer* Assizes 1670, *Gabree* pretends to come to Tryal: but when he saw *Pettley* appear, and had his Witnesses for his defence, he let it fall that Assize.

Since



Since *Michaelmas*, Seventy one, *Pitley* is again arrested as aforesaid.

But I have now presented his Case to his Majesty, else he would have been utterly ruin'd and now the said *Gabree* is in Custody, being owner of the Wooll, taken at *Graveſend*, as aforesaid.

I shall conclude with a few particular Instances, that I observed in attending the Parliament, of which I only hinted some thing in page 51b.

To begin with a Motion made in the House of Commons 1670, when that House were under consideration of raising Money for His Late Majesty's supply, it being then taken for granted, that there were great quantities of Wooll clandestinely exported from *Ireland* to Forreign Parts, it was then propounded, that a Tax of 2d. or 3d. *per l.* might be laid upon such Wooll for three Reasons, then given, (*viz.*) First, it would make it so Dear to Foraigners, that the *English* could under sell them in our Manufactory. Secondly, It would raise a great Revenue to his Majesty. Thirdly, It would be an inducement to the Officers, to be more careful to look after the Custome, and so less would I go: This seemed to many Wise Grave Senators at first, to be very Reasonable, until I gave Answer to it. And that was thus.

*Ans.* 1. As to 2. d. or 3. d. *per pound* dearer, signifies nothing: For if they Enter 10 Packs, there shall go off a 100 Packs Unentirel. But grant it did all pay that Custome there in *Ireland*, it pays no Custome when it's Imported in *Holland*, *Flanders*, or *France*; and then to consider the Custome it paid here to his Majesty upon our Woollen Manufactory, when Exported, which is above five pound for a Pack of Worsted-stuffs, &c. and it's such Wooll that is coveted; and that as before the *French King* laying such an Imposse upon our *English* Woollen Manufactories, of 20 or 30 *per cent*, this overballanceth by ten parts the first Reason, and besides about the Manufacturers working so much cheaper, which I humbly suppose, is a sufficient Answer to the first Reason of the Motion.

*Ans.* 2. As to his Majesties Revenue by 2 d. or 3 d. *per pound*, is answered in short; The Custome paid as above upon the Export of our Woollen Manufactories, is double that Custome; but the Custome upon the Importation of the Product thereof, may amount to three times the worth of the Pack of Wooll; from hence may be concluded, That his Majesties damage by the quantity that is asserted to be Transported, cannot be less than one Million of pounds Sterling; so that this also is Answer d.

*Ans.* 3. As to the Officers inducement, I shall answer in short, by asking this single Question, (*viz.*) Which in reason can be the greatest Inducement, 3 d. *per pound* for Custome, or 3 s. *per pound* Forfeiture, of which three parts is given to the Prosecutors, who must be supposed to be more watchful to gain the Forfeiture, than the Custom for the King, if Shipt to be Transported, which is now in Force and Recoverable? But there was more in the bottom, For within a day or two of the said Motion, there was a Noble Lord did affirm in the Committee for Wooll, that his Lordship was offered a hundred thousand pound Sterling, to pass an Act for Transportation of Wooll; and besides, there is a Petition of many years standing, that within this few months I had a view of, for Combed Wooll to go off upon the same pretence as before; alledging it is course Wooll, and not for the Clothier. It's true, that it is not fit for Cloth, but it is for Worsted-stuffs, and Stockings, which is as prejudicial, if not more than Clothing Wooll.

By which that motion fell to the ground, but some time after the petition before mentioned, did appear bare Faced, of which I wrote in a Letter to the Merchants and Clothiers (*viz.*) in 1686 Comprehending what pass in Parliament from 75 till that time, (*viz.*) I began this.

Perceiving at length what I had for some time a suspicion of, that some Persons at the then next Sessions of Parliament, did not only appear to justify the Fact of Transportation of Wooll privatly, but did appear publickly and in Print, to assert and avow the conveniency that it would be to this Nation; and therefore did desire, that an Act of Parliament might be made for a limited Exportation, giving also some pretended Reasons for the same.

In March 1676 a Bill was put into the Hand of an Eminent Member of the then House of Commons, to be brought into that House, with whome I had some Discourse, and did so far dissuade him to delay, till the following Letter prevail'd on the *Faſtors*, and some *clothiers* then in Town, to assist me.

March the 22<sup>d</sup>. 1676

Sirs, Having been at *Westminster* this day, and spake with divers Members, I find the Arguments for the Exportation of Wooll, have so far prevailed with the Parliament-men, that a Bill is already put in Sr. T. M<sup>s</sup>. Hand to bring it into the House which may be done this very day ( altho' I had some Discourse with him about it and did endeavour to diswade him from it )

The Consequence of which, seeing it must tend to the utter Ruine of the Cloathing Trade, and seeing I have done the utmost that can be expected on my part to prevent it, which is to draw up Reasons effectually to make out the Inconvenience of it, which I have also put into the Printer's hand.

I thought it my Duty therefore, further to acquaint you, that unless some further speedy Course be taken for a general meeting, to consider how, and in what manner this Mischief should be obviated. I conceived the Intrest of the Clothier would suddenly have grown desperate, seeing no private or single Man appearing in this Case, who ever he be can signify any thing to oppose it.

I am much convinced, that not only the Cloathing Trade, but the very Intrest of the Nation in general is at stake, and in hazzard to be utterly lost, if this Point should now be wholly neglected? This I have for some years foreseen, and have talked of, but it hath not been regarded, but you will find that I spake not slightly, but on good grounds. and what there is just Cause to suspect, will come to pass, if this Matter be not with Industry and Diligence prevented.

After I had prevailed with the Clothiers to give me some encouragement; I did then endeavour to use proper Arguments, and took a fit Season to present them, when the House of Commons was so earnest for the prohibiting *French* Commodities, laying before them, that the Wooll endeavoured to be limited for Transportation was principally intended for *France*, which proved so effectual for the Ends designed; which Arguments I refer you to for your further satisfaction.

After this was laid aside, the next Sessions of Parliament comes a Gentleman that hath been all along my Competitor (*viz.*) Mr. *Mack* as in p. 8 and brings in a Bill, and prevailed so far as to get it read and committed, upon which I drew up the following Petition, which was signed by several Merchants and Factors, *viz.*

Whereas there is a Bill depending, the Parliament whereof seems to be against Transportation of Wooll, the Scope and Consequence of it ( as is humbly conceived ) will tend rather to encourage it: For whereas it is suggested in the said Bill, that the Act made in the 14<sup>th</sup>. Year of His Majesties Reign, making Transporting of Wooll Felony, is ineffectual for the preventing thereof, and therefore prays the Repealing the Felony of that Act, without confirming the rest of that Act; as if making Transportation to be Felony did encourage Transporting; that Suggestion with all submission is conceived to be a great mistake: For though it must be granted ( whatever Laws have been or shall be made in this case ) that some Persons for their own Lucre ( though it be never so much to the Damage of the great Manufacture of this Kingdom, and notwithstanding all the Care imaginable ) will adventure to Transport Wooll. Yet for some Years after the Act of the 14 Car. 2. was in force, there was a great stop put to the said Transportation, until wooll so increased in Ireland beyond its Consumption there and here, that great Quantities were actually Transported from thence; but till that Glut the Act of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Year of His Majesties Reign ( by which the Forfeiture was Three Shillings for every pound of Wooll besides the Wooll forfeited ) enjoyed with the Act in the 1<sup>st</sup>. Year of His Majesties Reign, was found effectual to prohibit Transporting Wooll, for

*the Prosecutor having liberty to Prosecute upon what Act he please.*

If the Act against Felony were repealed, there would be much more Wooll exported then hath been done; for although few Persons that have any considerable Estate do now appear in the very Fact of the said Exportation, but most times poor men; therefore in reason it cannot but be supposed if the Act which makes it Felony were repealed, none else but poor men would do it, and then to what purpose would that Act be of making the Forfeiture, Three Shillings per pound; to be sure no one would be at the Charge to prosecute. But then of the other hand, Experience is of some use in this case; I remember that I prosecuted several Persons for Exporting of Wooll about the Year 1675, upon that Act of Felony, by the particular Order of King Charles the second, and I did Convict twenty of them, as in page the third I shal put some Report at that time to the said Exportation, for that both in reason and experience that Act ought to stand.

To all which I had added what I could find in *Magna Charta*, finding the work so great, both in the Charge and Labour, and too much for my self to carry on alone, being so much discouraged, though I had done much for the King and Kingdoms good, not being willing to good a Work, I fell to the Ground; a third Petition was drawn up by order of several Merchants and Clothiers in *London*, who by their Mayor had Petitioned the late King about the *French Kings* Prohibiting of *English* Woollen Manufacture in his dominions) pursuant to the Petition before mentioned page 11. and 12, and there being a Proclamation then ordered at the Treasury, the same was at last agreed to, by the said Commissioners of the Customs, to which Proclamation two Clauses were added in the Petition to be added (1<sup>st</sup>) For so to provide for the Merchants and Factors in *London*, to appoint persons to seize Wooll, and bring into the Customs. The other to Collect voluntary Contributions, to defray the Charge thereof.

And a Person being acquainted with the late King, undertook to have it added to the Proclamation, and directed me to carry the Petition and Clauses, to the Clerk of the Council; who was to get the late Kings hand thereto, to the Proclamation, and whilst I was there with the Clerk, word was brought that the Commissioners of the Customs would not have any Clause added; so I lost my Labour, and the Proclamation came forth without those Clauses. Nevertheless I kept things on foot, though with great difficulty; and prosecuted divers Persons in the Exchequer, and convicted one *Henry Collier*, whose Tryal I mentioned in the 1<sup>st</sup>, but not his name; which *Collier* was to be employed by the order of *Sir Nicolas Juvenet*, in the *Roume Capt. Kinsale*, when I petitioned the late King in *July* 1685, for the Two Sloops there laid down by the Commissioners page 127. After which time I drew up another Petition signed by several Clothiers and Factors, which being referred to the Commissioners of the Customs and upon their Report at last did consent what they had a long time opposed, and upon their Report to the Council, Mr. Attorney General was ordered to draw up a Commission, which past the Broad Seal the 28<sup>th</sup> of *June* 1688. and the same day I was Imported by some of the Commissioners to send down Two Men and Horses into *Kent* and *Stafford*, to take care of inspecting on preventing that Mischief, being then Shearing-time which accordingly I did do the very same day; and defrayed the Charge my self.

That some time after was ordered by a Committee of the said Commissioners, to fitt out Two Sloops to be at Sea, and two or three Men more at Land to attend that Service, and when they were fitted I went down and gave directions therein from time to time, and prevented great quantities of Wooll from Exportation, and some Vessells seize and some Wooll taken in the Nighttime, as the same was Carrying on Horse Backs to the Sea Side, and some of the Exporters themselves secured, who discovered near Thirty others; against the Cheif of which I procured a Warrant from the late Lord Cheif Justice *Wright*, and with as much wariness as I could (some of them before having Abconded) was secured 8 or 10 of the Cheifest of them, and desired the Mayor of *Rumney* to Commit them, but he admitted them to Baile, tho I insisted hard to the contrary; But he was not so well



to be, and is now prosecuted for the same Fact. I shall conclude with these following Affidavits, viz.

*The Information of James Webb. John Edwards.  
and Henry Spillet.*

**T**Hese Informants maketh Oath, that being employed in the Executing of a Warrant from the Lord Chief Justice against several Exporters of Wooll, living in *Rumney*; and was on the 11th Instant severally informed of Thirty Packs of Wooll, intended to be Shipt and transported that Night. These Deponents, *James Webb* and *John Edwards*, together with *John Milner* was arrested in several Actions, on purpose, as these Deponents beleive to prevent them of Seizeing the said Wooll; that at or near the same time one *John Slaughter* a Transporter of Wooll, and one that was taken upon the said Warrant, & bound over to the Assizes; came with a Hanger into the Room, and provoked them to Fight; until by the Mayor of *Rumney* was forced to be gone, the next Morning these Deponents preparing for *Lyd*, news was brought there, that the said *John Slaughter* was come Armed with Ten other persons near at hand, and Ten more expected to Assault these Deponents; Mr. *Carter* and his Company, upon which news the said Mr. *Carter* sent to the Mayor, to desire him to keep the Peace, and shortly after went to *Lyd*, and being informed there also sum intentions to Export Wooll that Night, whereupon these Deponents and Company, prepared to go out to the Sea-side, about Eight of the Clock that Night, and going in the Street, were assaulted by several persons unknown, and one of our Company Wounded, but afterwards discovered one to be the Bayliffs Son of *Lyd*, who came to our Lodging and threatned that if any stirred out of the House, we should be fired at, out of the Town; or words to that effect, he being sent by the Bayliff his Father, as he said: But the reason as these Deponents beleiveth, was that they might not be interrupted in the exportation of Wooll, as before intended; that about one of the Clock at Night, a great body of Horse and some Foot, (supposing after they had Shipt the Wooll) came about the House where we Lodged, Firing several times; Shouting and Railing upon us, but upon the Importunity of Mr. *Carter*; these Deponents, nor any of the Company did Fire any Gun, when we had the opportunity of Killing of them, and were provoked in our own defence so to do: These Deponents further maketh Oath, that when it was light, they went to the said Bayliffs House about the Ryot, and desiring his Assistance, in the search after the persons Guilty of the said Ryot; and asked whether there was any Watch in the Towne the Night before, as his Son pretended that there was, but inquiring into it by several Jurats and others, and Constable, found there was no Watch that Night, nor any ordered nor had been along time before: That about Ten of the Clock the same day these Deponents, was followed by a



This Deponant, *John Edward*, further maketh Oeth; that all the men except two with the horses, got into their Sloops Boats lying ready for them, and perceiving that some of the horsemen riding near the two men with our horses, the said men left their horses on the *Camber-point*, and got into a Boat and put off; but the horsemen fired both at the men in the Boat, and also at the horses; and here since that one of the horses is killed.

**J** *Ames Atkins*, Master of a Vessel called the *Dilligence*; did see a Party of Horse armed, following Mr. *Carter* and several of his assistance, the 13th. Instant *December*; intending as this Deponent beleiveth to do some mischief to them, for that some of the horsemen fired at his men in a Boat, as they was coming off the *Camber*; the Shot Grazing near the Boat. *James Atkins.*

**J** *John Syer* Marriner, maketh Oath; that being imployed in a Vessel, called the *Merchants Defence*; to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, he the said Deponent was required, with several others to assist in the Execution of the Lord Chief Justice Warrant, against several Exporters of Wooll; and having performed that service the 12th. of this instant *December*, came that day to *Lyd*, in order to go to *Rye*; on Board their Vessel then lying at Anchor there. And about Eight or Nine of the Clock in the night time, he with the rest of his company at the request of Mr. *Carter*; was going towards the Sea-side to Seize, or Prevent the Exportation of Wooll; which was supposed to be intended to be transported that night, and as this Deponent and Company, were going through the Street, was set on by several persons unknowne, who received several Wounds, and afterwards found one of the persons to be the Bayliff Son of *Lyd*, after which time several persons came to this Deponents Lodgings, Firing several times, and railed upon this Deponent and Company.

And this Deponent further maketh Oath, that the next day being the 13th. instant, he with the rest of the Company coming toward *Rye* as aforesaid, was pursued, by about fifty horsemen or thereabouts, armed and had not the Boats belonging to several Vessels gave their attendance and took us in, we might have been destroyed. *John Syer.*

**R** *Andal Gosley* maketh Oath, that on the 13th. instant *December*; there being a great Body of Horse come on the *Camber* near *Rye*, being supposed *Irish*, or *French*; which put the Town of *Rye* into a great fear, and being on the other side of the Harbor, the Majestrates sent some Persons in a Boat, to discover who they were, and the Reasons being enquired into, was to do some mischief to Mr. *William Carter*, and his Assistance; who had taken up sum Persons for Transportation of Wooll: These Horsemen following them so fast that Mr. *Carters* Men could not get their Horses over the Ferry, but

This Deponent, being afterward sent, by the said Mr. Carter; to look after the Horses, went as farr as *Lyd*, where one *John Slaughter* owned the Horses to be in his Custody, and would keep them so for damages, pretended to be done him by the said Mr. Carter; and further said that his name was *Slaughter*, and a *Slaughter* he shou'd find of him.

And this Deponent further said, that some others then in the Company of the said *Slaughter*, said that they would secure his Body, and some others his Soul, for that neither was his own. *Randal Gley.*

*The Colluntary Deposition, of William Ellis of Dover Marriner;  
taken as followeth.*

**T**HIS Deponent maketh Oath that coming from *Chatham* to *Rye*, in the County of *Suffex*; pass'd by the way of *Lyd*, on the 13th of Decem. and at a place called *Broomkil House*, on this side *Lyd* foretold; this Deponent met with two Men on Horseback, who askt this Deponent whether he was going, he answered for *Gilford Ferry* in order to *Rye*: one of them said (God-bless-you) you are one of the Rogues that were taken together, and if they thought this Deponent was one (they would have him) meaning is this Deponent believes, in Sea terms. dividing of him; but the said Deponent using good Language, and telling them he was not the Person they took him for, they let him pass,

But, when this Deponent came to *Gilford Ferry*, there was one *John Smith* of *Gilford*, came in with a Bottle of Wine in his hand; and coming where this Deponent sat by the fire side, he Swore (by God) it is one of the Rogues belonging to the Sloops, and said let us find him neck and heels, and share him, the said *Smith* further said, theyelves *Warners Horse*, and he knew who shot him with a Slug, by which the Horse fell downe, but rose againe, and some Person knockt him downe with a Clubb; and upon the same Shot. This Deponent herd *John Smith* of *Gilford*, say, that the blood gush'd from the Horse. and he further said, that could he light of Mr. *Wibb*, *John Warner*, *Henry Spiller*, or any of the Sloops-crew; they would certainly Kill them. And further this Deponent saith not. *William Ellis.*

*Jurat Coram me Tresime,  
die Decembres Anno.  
Dom. 1688.*

*Ditto John Spaine Mayor.*

*These are all True Coppys of the Original upon Record, here examined  
by me. Henry Darington Town-Clerk; and Publique Notory, of  
the Ancient Town of Rye, Suffex.*

That I have indited near 20 of the Exporters at the Assizes, at *Maidston* in *Kent*; and some of them a second time, for that they had stolen *Wooll* that had been seized, and exported the same; and also indited about 10 of those in the *Ryots* before-mentioned, in the several Affidavits at the same Assizes.

And likewise about 12 I have indited at the Assizes at *Hofsom* in *Sussex*, for the said *Ryot*; and in a faire way to discover and prosecute near 20 more of them, which in all probability may put a great stop to this Mischeif at present, if not to much discouraged as hitherto; to instance only the *Bill* now depending, which I have attended this Six Months, with no small difficulty, not only being opposed at the several Committees (which in all hath been 19 Adjournments) and Personally by some Falsely accused, as being a great Rogue, and an Exporter of *Wooll* my self; this some of you hath been *Eye* and *Eare* Witnesses of; you cannot but think it hard, and after all to be Laught at by some of the same Persons and some others; to have no mannor of recompence, not so much as my daily Pocket expences; nay not so much as to pay passage by Water in this time; which I have oughten times told some of you, that had I had the necessary expences in attending the *Bill*, it had past into a Law a bove Fower Monthes since, and then no such Clogg as now is put upon it, purposely as its said by some to hinder the *Bill*: So that, Gentlemen its not my fault that these evils are still continued.

FINIS.